

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans
STATE OF LOUISIANA

No: 2018 - 03843

Division/Section: I-14

DEEP SOUTH CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ET AL ET AL
versus
THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS ET AL ET AL

Date Case Filed: 4/19/2018

NOTICE OF SIGNING OF JUDGMENT

TO:

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In accordance with Article 1913 C.C.P., you are hereby notified that Judgment
in the above entitled and numbered cause was signed on July 2, 2019

New Orleans, Louisiana
July 2, 2019


Tawanda Johnson, M.S.
MINUTE CLERK

CIVIL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA

CASE NO. 18-3843

DIVISION "I"

Section 14

THE SOUTHERN CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, INC. d/b/a DEEP SOUTH
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, VAYLA NEW ORLEANS,
JUSTICE AND BEYOND, 350 NEW ORLEANS, SIERRA CLUB,
MR. THEODORE QUANT, AND MS. RENATE HEURICH

VERSUS

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, THE UTILITY, CABLE,
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE OF THE NEW ORLEANS
CITY COUNCIL, JASON R. WILLIAMS, HELENA MORENO, JOSEPH I. GIARRUSSO,
JAY H. BANKS, KRISTIN GISLESON PALMER, JARED C. BROSSETT, AND CYNDI
NGUYEN

FILED: _____

Deputy Clerk

JUDGMENT

Petitioners' Amended Petition to Enforce the Louisiana Open Meetings Law, for Declaratory Judgment, Injunction, and Attorneys' Fees and Costs came before this Court for hearing on July 19, 2018.

Present at the hearing in court were:

William Quigley, Monique Harden, Alexander Bollag, Susan Stevens Miller, and Jill Tauber, for petitioners; and
Corwin St. Raymond, William Goforth, and Cherrell S. Taplin, for defendants.

After considering the pleadings and memoranda filed with this Court, the evidentiary record, and the arguments of counsel, this Court announced its ruling in open court on June 14, 2019. The Court explained this judgment is to make sure that "citizens voices are heard" at City Council meetings. Regarding the February 21, 2018 meeting of the Utilities, Cable, Telecommunications and Technology Committee of the New Orleans City Council ("UCTTC") and the March 8, 2018 meeting of the New Orleans City Council (the "Council"), the Court found that the Council "did nothing wrong." The Court acknowledged the Council's own investigatory findings that, as a result of Entergy New Orleans' actions, "paid citizens were present" at public

meetings held on October 16, 2017 and February 21, 2018. The Court further found that “Entergy’s actions undermined” the Open Meetings Laws, La. R.S. 42:11, *et seq.* Finally, the Court found that “the Open Meetings Laws were not adhered to as relates to the meaning and policy behind the Open Meetings Laws.”

Regarding the February 21, 2018 meeting of the Utilities, Cable, Telecommunications and Technology Committee of the New Orleans City Council, the Court finds that the Open Meetings Law was violated.

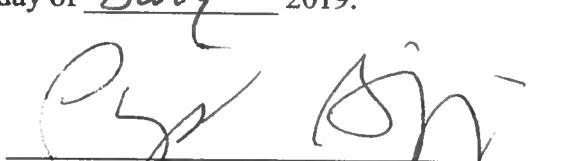
Regarding the March 8, 2018 meeting of the New Orleans City Council, the Court *does not* find that the Open Meetings Law was violated. However, the February 21, 2018 action was a necessary component of the full council’s decision to adopt Resolution No. 18-65. As such, the full council’s vote to adopt the resolution was void *ab initio*.

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that, for the reasons stated in open court on June 14, 2019, there be judgment in FAVOR of petitioners, The Southern Center for Environmental Justice, Inc. d/b/a Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, VAYLA New Orleans, Justice and Beyond, 350 New Orleans, Sierra Club, Mr. Theodore Quant and Ms. Renate Heurich, and AGAINST defendants, The Council of the City of New Orleans, the Utility, Cable, Telecommunications, and Technology Committee of the New Orleans City Council, Jason R. Williams, Helena Moreno, Joseph I. Giarrusso, Jay H. Banks, Kristin Gisleson Palmer, Jared C. Brossett, and Cyndi Nguyen; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that, for the reasons stated in open court on June 14, 2019, the action of the then-sitting members of the UCTTC at its February 21, 2018 meeting is VOID; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that, for the reasons stated in open court on June 14, 2019, the action of the then-sitting members of the New Orleans City Council adopting Council Resolution No. R-18-65 at a March 8, 2018 meeting is VOID.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 2nd day of July 2019.


THE HONORABLE PIPER D. GRIFFIN
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DIVISION "P"

A TRUE COPY

Debra A. Johnson, MSA
DEPUTY CLERK, CIVIL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LA.